INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1545 — Washington, D. C. — July 16, 1955

Additional Funds Sought To Carry Out FDA Expansion

A bill providing additional appropriations for the Food and Drug Administration, to expand its work and its personnel along the lines recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee, was introduced in the House July 12 by Representative Sullivan (Mo.).

The bill, H.R. 7287, would appropriate $1,096,800 for the current fiscal year, in addition to appropriations already made for the FDA, "to be used by that agency in employing additional inspectors, chemists, and other scientific experts for a substantially enlarged educational and informational program, and otherwise to begin to put into effect the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Food and Drug Administration."

Mrs. Sullivan stated, in introducing the bill, that the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare should act on the Committee's recommendations and initiate the steps necessary to have the President send to Congress a formal request for a supplemental appropriation.

Mrs. Sullivan urged the House Appropriations Committee to consider her bill as soon as possible in order that the supplemental appropriations bill may be put through Congress before adjournment.

Agricultural Research Policy

The Agricultural Research Policy Committee has recommended increased emphasis by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service on research concerned with over-all economic aspects of foreign trade in U. S. agricultural products.

Committee members, at their quarterly meeting in Washington recently, stressed the need in this country for more knowledge of what is going on in foreign markets. Emphasizing also the need for high quality in agricultural exports, the Committee pointed out that abroad, as here, "the consumer writes the ticket."

The Committee recommended that the Food Distribution Research and

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General Crop Conditions

Vegetables for processing in 1955 are estimated to be growing on 4 percent less acreage than last year, and the supply of fruits is expected to be adequate in total despite seasonal differences from normal supply, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

The total planted acreage of the processing crops for which estimates are made by USDA is 1.65 million acres, compared with 1.72 million acres in 1954 and an average of 1.84 million acres for the 1944-53 period.

The acreages planted to tomatoes, beets, winter and spring spinach, and green peas for processing are up from last year, while less acreage is reported for snap beans, lima beans, contract cabbage, sweet corn, pickling cucumbers, and pimientos for processing (page 260).

These estimates are based on conditions as of July 1 and were reported by USDA July 11.

For the fruit crops, about a fifth less peaches than last year are expected, a tenth less prunes, and 4 percent less apples. However, USDA estimates indicate two-thirds more apricots, nearly a third more cherries, a tenth more plums, and a fourth more grapes (page 259).

Harvest of citrus crops of the 1954-55 season is nearly over. The outlook is favorable at this time for the 1955-56 citrus crops.

Production of fresh vegetables and melons this summer is expected to be

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Crop	1954 Revised	1955 Forecast	Percent change from 1954
	(tons)	*(tons)*	
Snap beans	353,030	327,380	+11
Peas	398,400	434,100	−9
Spinach (winter and spring)	73,180	100,060	+22
	(planted acreage)		
Lima beans	116,750	105,710	−10
Beets	16,500	17,280	+5
Cabbage for kraut (contract)	9,320	7,790	−17
Corn	484,910	418,850	−7
Cucumbers for pickles	149,480	136,080	−9
Pimientos	32,900	26,700	−19
Tomatoes	275,300	314,250	+14

Minimum Wage Bill Scheduled for House Action Next Week

The House bill to raise the statutory minimum wage to $1 an hour was formally reported this week and is tentatively scheduled for consideration by the House on Tuesday, July 19.

By that date it is expected that the bill, H. R. 7214, will have been cleared by the House Rules Committee for consideration under a rule that will bar amendments relating to any subject other than the minimum wage rate and the effective date of the amendment.

The House bill would make the $1 minimum wage effective on March 1, 1956. The effective date provided in the Senate-passed bill is January 1, 1956.

In its report on the bill, the House Labor Committee stated, in part:

"The committee tried, without success, to determine accurately the extent to which employers might adjust to a new rate without creating hardship or unemployment. However, the hearing record suggests that small and medium-sized businesses, especially those related to agriculture, would experience the greatest difficulty in adjusting to an increase. This stems in part from their lack of financial capacity to install modern equipment, including labor-saving machinery. They are also hampered by marketing difficulties which do not affect larger producers. It should also be noted that the larger business firms showed little interest in the hearings, and no direct testimony was offered by any of the country's big industrial concerns. Testimony by the Department of Labor reviewed the history of this act. It showed that World War II broke out shortly after the law was first enacted, so that the impact of the minimum wage '* * * was lost in the war and postwar inflation * * *.' When the 75-cent minimum went into effect in 1950, it was shortly followed by the Korean war, so that the '* * * effects of the minimum wage could not be traced on account of the much greater economic changes caused by the war * * *.'

"In assessing the impact of the various increases proposed in this Congress, the Labor Department's testimony showed that 6.5 percent of the nation's factory workers are now being paid at straight-time hourly rates

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Canned Food Pack Statistics Bulletin Mailed

The annual N.C.A. bulletin of *Canned Food Pack Statistics*, including details of the 1954 packs of canned fruit and vegetable products, has been mailed to the industry.

Statistics on the packs of canned fruits and vegetables have been published again in one bulletin. In this new format, instituted last year, the single booklet is a continuation of the series published in previous years as "Part I—Vegetables" and "Part II—Fruits."

The bulletin, *Canned Food Pack Statistics, 1954*, includes statistics on the 1954 packs of 34 canned fruits and 27 canned vegetables, with comparisons with previous packs.

For a number of items the bulletin gives the industry's total production by container size and principal states where packed, for 1954 and the four preceding seasons.

The information is compiled from data furnished by individual canners, members and non-members, and is useful as historical reference to canners, allied industries, and government agencies.

Additional copies may be obtained upon request to the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

Grades for Canned Pimientos

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has revised U. S. standards for grades of canned pimientos, effective August 16.

The revised standards provide for additional styles of canned pimientos designated as "Whole and pieces," "Pieces (sliced)," and "Pieces (diced)."

The color of canned pimientos has been defined in terms of USDA Pimiento Red and USDA Pimiento Reddish Yellow. These colors will replace the now obsolete Ridgway's "Color Standards and Nomenclature" which are referred to in the current standards.

Sets of the USDA color standards for canned pimientos have been supplied to the principal inspection offices handling this item where they are available for demonstration to the industry.

The fill of container has been redefined and a method outlined for determining compliance with minimum drained weight recommendations. Provision is made for averaging the drained weights of all containers in the sample. Additional container sizes have been included in the table of recommended minimum drained weights.

The factor of wholeness has been deleted as a factor of quality. The provisions relating to this factor have been provided for in the definition of style for whole pimientos and under the factor of uniformity of size and shape and in the provisions relating to defects.

The factors of uniformity of size and shape, defects, and character have been redefined and other changes made in the text for clarification of the provisions of the respective grades.

The grades of canned pimientos are U. S. Grade A or U. S. Fancy and U. S. Grade C or U. S. Standard.

BDSA Containers Division

L. G. Lea, vice president of the Kieckhefer Container Company, Camden, N. J., has been appointed Deputy Director of the Containers and Packaging Division of the Business and Defense Services Administration.

Mr. Lea is joining BDSA under the rotation system in which key executives from industry provide their services to the Department of Commerce for periods of six months or longer.

Mr. Lea started with the Kieckhefer firm in Milwaukee in 1920 and, after working in all sections of the country, moved to the head office in Camden in 1942 to take over management of the then new Paper Milk Bottle Division. He was named vice president of the firm in 1950.

He takes the place of Norval W. Postweiler, an official of the Riegel Paper Corporation, New York, who has served as Deputy Director of the Containers and Packaging Division since February. Mr. Postweiler has been appointed an Assistant Administrator of the BDSA.

Agricultural Research Policy

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Marketing Advisory Committee (see INFORMATION LETTER of April 2, page 181), originally established as an ad hoc group, be continued as a regular committee. It urged also that cost and margin studies of the Agricultural Marketing Service be continued in the marketing research pursued by USDA. It noted with favor the emphasis being placed by USDA on basic research and urged its continuance and expansion.

New Early Apple for Sauce

A large apple that ripens very early and makes high-quality sauce was introduced recently by the New York State Experiment Station at Geneva and officially named "Wellington." The new variety comes from a cross between Cortland and Crimson Beauty.

One of the characteristics of this new apple is said to be that it bears fruit annually instead of biennially and, unlike most early apples, Wellington ripens evenly so that all of the crop may be picked at one time. The fruit also hangs to the tree well without the use of stop-drop strays and is firm enough so that it does not bruise too much.

"Sauce made from Wellington is golden amber and has the coarse grain which gives it desirable texture. The Station suggests that the earliness, attractive appearance and large size of this apple should make it a valuable variety for early fresh market sales or processing. It has been propagated and distributed by the New York State Fruit Testing Association, Geneva, N. Y., where inquiries about it may now be directed."

Minimum Wage Bill

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between 75 and 90 cents; 10.2 percent at rates between 75 cents and $1; and 22.4 percent between 75 cents and $1.25. The $1 rate recommended by the committee would, therefore, require a direct wage increase for 10.2 percent of these factory workers, while a 90-cent figure would have required an increase for only 6.5 percent and $1.25 would have required increases for 22.4 percent. In a further comparison, the Department estimated that '* * * the indicated direct wage impact of 90 cents is of equal magnitude to that of 75 cents in 1950 * * *.' The Department also said that the direct wage impact of a $1 rate would be twice that of a 90-cent rate. As an example, in southern sawmills the $1 rate would mean an 18 percent wage bill increase, compared with a 9 percent increase at 90 cents, according to the Labor Department. Similar statistics were submitted for other industry groups, with the observation that the comparisons are '* * * typical of low-wage segments of industry * * *.'

"The committee set March 1, 1956, as the effective date of the $1 rate, in the hope that the period between the date of enactment and this effective date would give adequate time to prepare for whatever adjustments may be needed, so that employers and employees may be subject to the least possible dislocation in the transition to the new statutory minimum."

Deciduous Fruit Production

Prospects for production of deciduous fruits in 1955 are reported by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA, on the basis of July 1 conditions, as follows:

Crop	1954 Revised	1955 Indicated	Percent change from 1954
	(thousands of bushels)		
Apples	109,512	105,560	−4
Peaches	61,316	48,479	−21
Pears	30,434	30,599	+1
	(tons)	*(tons)*	
Sweet cherries	97,940	119,260	+22
Sour cherries	107,690	144,800	+34
Apricots	155,400	257,800	+66
Plums	78,000	85,700	+9

Apples

The 1955 commercial apple crop is estimated at 105,560,000 bushels, about 4 percent below the 1954 production of 109,512,000 bushels and 1 percent below the 1944-53 average of 106,402,000 bushels.

The Eastern states, with 44.5 million bushels in prospect, account for about 42 percent of the total crop. This compares with 54.2 million bushels produced last year, or 50 percent of the total. The crop in this region is 18 percent below the 1954 production but about average for this area.

The Western states' production, estimated at 46.7 million bushels, represents 44 percent of the total crop, and compares with last year's production of 39.0 million bushels, or about 36 percent of the 1954 total. The prospective production of 30.5 million bushels in Washington is 32 percent above the 1954 production.

The North Central states production is forecast at 14.2 million bushels, 6 percent smaller than last year's crop and 19 percent below average. The South Central states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas have only 190,000 bushels in prospect.

Growing conditions in New York have been good, and a larger crop than last year and average is in prospect. In Pennsylvania the crop has made good growth, and prospects are good in both the Adams-Franklin-York and Berks-Lehigh areas. Maryland production is below last year and below average. The late March freeze killed much of the Virginia crop and prospects there are sharply below last year and below average.

The Washington crop is the largest since 1950. All apples made good growth during June. Oregon production prospects are above last year and above average. Production in California is expected to be about the same as last year, but above average.

Peaches

The peach crop is forecast at 48,479,000 bushels, 21 percent less than the 61,316,000 bushels produced last year and 30 percent below the 10-year average of 68,767,000 bushels.

The California crop of clingstone peaches is forecast at 20,668,000 bushels, 7 percent more than the 19,251,000 bushels of last year but 4 percent below the 1944-53 average of 21,527,000 bushels.

Excluding the California clingstones, prospective production is expected to total about one-third less than last year. The short crop is the result of the late March freeze which practically eliminated the crop in 12 Southern states.

The California crop of freestones is forecast at 10,793,000 bushels, 10 percent below the 12,001,000 bushels obtained last year and 6 percent below the average of 11,422,000 bushels.

The prospective Washington crop of 2,500,000 bushels is the largest since 1949, with the crop uniformly good in all areas. In Oregon an average crop is in prospect after a short crop in 1954.

Michigan has prospects for 2,250,000 bushels, slightly less than last year and 40 percent below average.

Pears

The 1955 total pear crop is forecast at 30,599,000 bushels, slightly above last year's production of 30,434,000 bushels but 1 percent below the 1944-53 average of 30,950,000 bushels.

The Bartlett crop in the Pacific Coast states, at 20,830,000 bushels, is 1 percent larger than in 1954 and 9 percent above average. The Bartlett crop in Washington is estimated at 5,300,000 bushels, compared with 4,130,000 bushels produced last year; Oregon, 2,612,000 bushels, compared with 1,500,000 bushels last year; and California, 12,918,000 bushels, compared with 14,918,000 bushels last year.

Other varieties on the Pacific Coast are estimated at 7,200,000 bushels, 22 percent above last year and 5 percent more than average.

Michigan prospects vary widely as a result of the freeze of May 9. Indicated production at 825,000 bushels is slightly above last year and 6 percent above average.

Sweet Cherries

The sweet cherry crop is estimated at 119,260 tons, 22 percent larger than the 1954 crop of 97,940 tons and 27 percent above the 10-year average of 94,105 tons.

The increased production in 1955 is in the Western states, with a total of 105,860 tons compared with 82,150 tons last year. Prospective production declined during June in Oregon, Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Michigan, more than offsetting improvement in California, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Sour Cherries

The sour cherry crop is forecast at 144,800 tons, 34 percent larger than last year's production of 107,690 tons and 24 percent above the 10-year average of 117,067 tons.

Larger crops than in 1954 are forecast in all of the Great Lakes states, totaling 133,000 tons compared with 95,780 tons in 1954. The Western states show little change from last year or from the average.

Apricots

The prospective 1955 apricot crop in California, Washington and Utah is estimated at 257,000 tons, 66 percent above last year's 155,400 tons and 10 percent above the 1944-53 average of 234,400 tons.

The California crop was late, but volume harvesting was expected to begin about July 10. Both the Yakima and Wenatchee areas of Washington reported uniformly good crops. Utah fruit was sizing well.

Plums

The indicated production of plums in California and Michigan is 85,700 tons, 9 percent more than the 78,600 tons produced last year but 1 percent below the average of 86,400 tons.

Grapes

The California crop of grapes is forecast at 2,954,000 tons, 27 percent more than last season and 8 percent above average. By kinds, indications were for 620,000 tons of table varieties, 27 percent more than last season.

The Washington crop, mostly Concord type, is forecast at a record high of 56,000 tons, 25,000 tons more than last season and more than twice the 10-year average. In New York and Pennsylvania growing conditions have been favorable but production is indicated to be below the large crops of last year. The Michigan crop is indicated at 24,000 tons compared with 46,000 tons last year.

Green Peas for Processing

The prospective production of green peas for processing, based on July 1 conditions, is 434,100 tons, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This is about 9 percent more than the 398,400 tons obtained in 1954 but 1 percent less than the average of 438,250 tons for the 1944-53 period.

July 1 conditions point to a per acre yield of 1,997 pounds for 1955. This compares with 1,877 pounds obtained last year and an average of 2,030 pounds for the 10-year period.

Compared with June 15, increases in indicated production, particularly in the Midwest, more than offset decreases in Idaho and Oregon.

State	1944-53 ave.	1954 revised	1955 Indicated	Percent change from 1954
	(tons—shelled)			
Maine	5,780	6,760	7,220	−7
New York	27,030	14,960	17,000	−14
Pennsylvania	17,060	13,120	14,180	−8
Ohio	2,930	980	1,360	−39
Indiana	3,740	1,580	2,500	−58
Illinois	23,610	27,170	36,400	−34
Michigan	5,860	3,380	4,720	−40
Wisconsin	133,170	115,100	137,500	−20
Minnesota	41,370	48,720	49,300	−1
Iowa	3,610	2,610	3,600	−38
Delaware	2,270	4,060	5,320	−31
Maryland	10,240	10,160	11,880	−17
Virginia	1,720	2,100	2,120	−1
Idaho	9,180	11,720	7,000	+40
Colorado	3,620	460	2,380	...
Utah	15,990	5,660	8,750	−55
Washington	62,270	70,910	69,300	−2
Oregon	51,130	43,150	34,380	−20
California	8,070	9,380	12,390	−32
Other states[1]	9,590	6,420	6,800	−6
U. S. Total	438,250	398,400	434,100	−9

[1] Ark., Ga., Kans., Mo., Mont., Nebr., N. J., Okla., Tenn., W. Va., and Wyo.

Snap Beans for Processing

The 1955 indicated production of snap beans for processing, based on conditions as of July 1, is 327,380 tons, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This compares with the 1954 production of 353,030 tons and the 1944-53 average production of 236,800 tons.

The 1955 preliminary estimate of acreage for harvest is 135,470 acres. This compares with 151,500 acres harvested in 1954 and an average of 125,410 acres for the 1944-53 period. In arriving at the estimate of acreage for harvest in 1955, an allowance was made for abandoned or unharvested acreage about in line with the average loss for recent years.

A 1955 yield of 2.42 tons per acre is indicated as of July 1. This compares with 2.33 tons obtained in 1954 and an average of 1.90 tons for the 1944-53 period.

State	1944-53 ave.	1954 revised	1955 Indicated	Percent change from 1954
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	
Maine	6,000	5,500	5,500	+4
New York	40,000	67,700	59,400	+12
Pennsylvania	7,900	12,600	7,000	+42
Michigan	8,900	15,000	9,500	+29
Wisconsin	17,000	25,600	27,000	+6
Missouri	900	100	200	...
Delaware	2,500	2,900	4,200	−2
Maryland	16,100	22,100	19,600	+12
Virginia	5,300	5,300	6,100	...
North Carolina	3,200	5,400	5,300	+7
South Carolina	1,900	600	400	+20
Georgia	900	200	.....	...
Florida[1]	15,300	25,530	17,980	+28
Tennessee	7,800	12,200	11,500	+16
Mississippi	1,700	1,400	1,500	...
Arkansas	10,600	1,500	6,600	...
Louisiana	1,200	1,000	800	+4
Oklahoma	4,400	1,100	2,400	−67
Texas	9,800	10,500	10,500	...
Colorado	4,400	6,300	5,200	+7
Utah	2,000	2,800	2,500	...
Washington	8,800	12,000	10,100	+27
Oregon	42,400	77,000	81,000	−5
California	9,300	23,700	18,200	+13
Other states[2]	8,600	15,000	14,900	+3
U. S. Total	236,800	353,030	327,380	+11

[1] Sum of estimates by seasonal groups. [2] Ala., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Ky., Minn., Nebr., N. H., N. J., N. M., Ohio, Vt., and Wyo.

Lima Beans for Processing

The 1955 planted acreage of green lima beans for processing is 105,710 acres, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This is about 10 percent less than the 1954 plantings of 116,750 acres but 12 percent more than the 1944-53 average planting of 94,020 acres.

These estimates relate to planted acreage. The 10-year average loss of planted acreage is 6 percent.

State	1944-53 ave.	1954 revised	1955 Preliminary	Percent change from 1954
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
New York	2,600	4,600	4,700	+2
Pennsylvania	4,370	5,500	4,600	−16
Ohio	1,010	850	750	−12
Michigan	3,060	2,400	1,500	−38
Wisconsin	5,920	8,100	7,000	−14
Delaware	18,190	24,000	22,900	−5
Maryland	4,540	5,900	4,100	−31
Virginia	4,290	4,300	3,200	−26
Washington	1,330	2,500	1,400	−44
California	17,390	27,400	25,000	−9
Other states[1]	31,240	31,200	30,560	−2
U. S. Total	94,020	116,750	105,710	−9.5
For canning and other processing[2]	41,060	44,560	39,310	−12
For freezing[2]	65,740	72,190	66,400	−8

[1] Ark., Colo., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Minn., Mo., N. J., Okla., Ore., Tenn., and Utah. [2] Not shown by states to avoid disclosure of individual operations. [3] 1952-53 average. Estimates not available prior to 1952.

Tomatoes for Processing

The 1955 preliminary estimate of planted acreage of tomatoes for processing is 314,250 acres, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This is 14 percent more than the 275,300 acres planted in 1954 but 29 percent less than the 1944-53 average plantings of 439,400 acres.

If abandonment of planted acreage in 1955 is equal to the 10-year average loss of 3 percent, the 1955 harvested acreage would be about 305,000 acres. This compares with 267,550 acres harvested in 1954 and a 1944-53 average of 425,900 acres.

State	1944-53 ave.	1954 revised	1955 Preliminary	Percent change from 1954
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
New York	23,100	12,000	14,400	+20
New Jersey	33,300	24,900	25,100	+1
Pennsylvania	28,200	22,500	21,800	−3
Ohio	25,600	13,700	14,700	+7
Indiana	50,600	30,200	32,300	+7
Illinois	11,900	10,200	9,600	−6
Michigan	7,800	5,600	5,800	+4
Wisconsin	1,500	1,000	1,100	+10
Iowa	2,200	1,400	1,500	+7
Missouri	7,700	1,600	1,800	+12
Delaware	7,000	3,600	3,600	0
Maryland	34,800	14,200	15,700	+11
Virginia	22,900	13,700	16,500	+20
South Carolina	2,000	800	1,200	+50
Florida	4,200	7,500	7,600	+1
Kentucky	3,000	1,100	1,200	+9
Tennessee	3,600	600	600	0
Arkansas	10,600	3,000	3,300	+10
Oklahoma	1,700	200	200	0
Texas	21,800	15,800	8,500	−46
Colorado	4,200	3,800	3,900	+3
Utah	7,400	5,600	6,900	+23
California	111,300	79,500	115,000	+45
Other states[1]	4,000	2,800	1,950	−30
U. S. Total	439,400	275,300	314,250	+14.1

[1] Ala., Ariz., Conn., Ga., Idaho, Kans., La., Minn., Miss., Nebr., N. M., N. C., Ore., Wash., and W. Va.

Cabbage for Kraut

The 1955 contract acreage of cabbage for sauerkraut is 7,790 acres, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This is about 17 percent less than the 9,320 acres under contract to kraut packers last year and 23 percent less than the 1944-53 average of 10,060 acres. These estimates include acreage grown by packers on their own or leased land as well as acreage contracted with growers on either an acreage or a tonnage basis.

In 1954 the equivalent of 6,410 acres, or about 41 percent of the total was purchased on the open market. For the preceding 10 years, the average was 8,500 acres or nearly 47 percent of the total.

Beets for Canning

Reports received by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA from beet canners indicate 1955 planted acreage of 17,280 acres. This is about 5 percent more than the 1954 plantings of 16,500 acres but 1 percent below the 1944-53 average plantings of 17,380 acres.

These estimates relate to planted acreage. Average loss or abandonment of plantings is around 6 percent.

State	1944–53 ave.	1954 revised	1955 Preliminary	Percent change from 1954
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
New York	4,260	4,500	4,300	−4
Michigan	1,170	820	800	−2
Wisconsin	6,820	6,800	7,500	+10
Oregon	1,700	1,300	1,700	+31
Other states[1]	3,420	3,080	2,980	−3
U. S. Total	17,380	16,500	17,280	+4.7

[1] Calif., Colo., Ill., Ind., La., Me., Md., Minn., N. J., Ohio, Pa., Tenn., Texas, Utah, and Wash.

Pimientos for Processing

The 1955 planted acreage of pimientos for processing totals 26,700 acres, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This is 19 percent less than the 32,900 acres planted in 1954 but 50 percent more than the 1944-53 average of 17,830 acres.

The estimate for Georgia is 16,000 acres, 12 percent below the 20,500 acres of last year but only 5 percent less than the 10-year average of 16,870 acres.

In states other than Georgia for which estimates are made, 10,700 acres are reported for 1955 compared with 12,400 acres planted in 1954. These states are Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Growing conditions are generally good except for some areas of production in South Carolina, where weather has been hot and dry.

General Crop Conditions

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well above last year and above average.

The 1955 crop of sweet potatoes is reported 15 percent above last year's short crop. Crops of white potatoes, durum wheat, and dry edible beans also are estimated above those of 1954.

With a number of important crops showing adjustments from last year, total crop production in 1955 promises to be the second highest of record, according to USDA.

Total crop acreage planted or growing this season reaches 353 million acres, about 1 million acres less than the 1954 total. Shifts to feed grains and forage crops, which had been encouraged by the USDA, appear to have taken up much of the combined reduction of about 5 million acres in plantings of wheat, rice, and cotton.

Feed grains this year will make up an even larger part of the season's final output than usual. The July 1 forecast for corn is a sixth larger than last year.

Production of Field Crops

Prospects for production of potatoes, sweet potatoes, durum wheat, and dry edible beans and peas are reported by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA as follows:

Potatoes

The potato crop is forecast at 400,335,000 bushels, 12 percent above the 1954 revised production of 356,031,000 bushels and less than 1 percent above the 1944-53 average of 401,146,000 bushels.

Increases are indicated for all regions. Production in California is up 15 million bushels, Idaho 8 million, Washington 3 million, California's late crop 2 million, and New Jersey and Long Island each 2 million. These states account for about 40 million bushels of the 44 million bushel increase over 1954.

Sweet Potatoes

The 1955 crop of sweet potatoes is forecast at 34,273,000 bushels, nearly 15 percent greater than the near record low of 29,880,000 bushels of 1954 but 27 percent below the 10-year average of 46,951,000 bushels.

Louisiana expects about an average crop of 9,310,000 bushels, 5 percent larger than last year. Increases also are indicated for Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, and Mississippi. New Jersey is showing a slightly smaller production, 2,890,000 bushels, than the 2,958,000 bushels produced in 1954.

Crop	1954 Revised	1955 Indicated	Percent change from 1954
	(thousands of bushels)		
Potatoes	356,031	400,335	+12
Sweet potatoes	29,880	34,273	+15
Durum wheat	5,557	13,269	+139
	(thousands of bags)		
Dry beans	18,899	19,221	+2
Dry peas	3,484	2,540	−27

Durum Wheat

The durum wheat crop is forecast at 13,269,000 bushels, nearly 2½ times as large as last year's small crop of 5,557,000 bushels but only 40 percent of average.

Dry Edible Beans

Production of dry edible beans, at 19,221,000 bags, is expected to be the largest since 1949. The total is about 2 percent more than last year and 11 percent above average.

Dry Peas

Production of dry peas is expected to total only 2,540,000 bags, the lowest since 1940. This is 27 percent below the production of last year and 47 percent less than average. The low production results from the lowest yield of record, despite an increase in planted acreage.

Canned RSP Cherry Stocks

A report on canners' carryover stocks and season shipments of canned RSP cherries has been issued by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

	1953–54	1954–55
	(actual cases)	
Carryover, July 1	113,039	166,710
Pack	3,848,629	3,086,342
Total supply	3,961,668	3,253,052
Stocks, July 1	166,710	[1]124,814
Shipments during June	116,094	80,052
Shipments, July 1-July 1	3,794,958	3,128,238

[1] Carryover into 1955–56 season.

Carrier of Peach Mosaic

A mite so small that it cannot be seen without a microscope has been identified by scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service as the carrier of peach mosaic disease.

The discovery culminates a painstaking 17-year long search for the cause underlying the spread of this destructive virus disease of peaches and other stone fruits. With the new knowledge, USDA scientists now can seek ways to control the disease by controlling the mite, perhaps with chemical sprays or dusts, that can be substituted for the drastic measures currently in use—removal and destruction of all diseased trees.

The identification of the mite was made by scientists stationed at Riverside, Calif., in cooperation with the California Experiment Station.

Status of Legislation

Wage-hour legislation—S. 2168, increasing the statutory minimum wage to $1 an hour, effective January 1, 1956, was passed by Senate June 8. H. R. 7214, to establish a $1 minimum wage on March 1, 1956, was reported by House Labor Committee July 11 and is scheduled for action by the House July 19, subject to clearance by the Rules Committee by that date (see story, page 257).

Price supports—H. R. 12, restoring price supports on basic crops at 90 percent of parity, was passed by House May 5. Senate Agriculture Committee suspended hearings on price support legislation.

Mexican farm labor program—H. R. 3822, to authorize continued importation of Mexican nationals for employment in agriculture, was passed by House July 6 and is pending before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Agricultural trade development—S. 2253, to reemphasize trade development as the primary purpose of Title I of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (P. L. 480) and to increase the authorization under that program from $700,000,000 to $1,500,000,000, was reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee July 6.

Sugar—Revision of the Sugar Act is the subject of public hearings begun by the House Agriculture Committee June 22. No action scheduled by Senate Finance Committee.

FDA codification—H. R. 6991, to revise, codify, and enact into law Title 21 of the U. S. Code, entitled "Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics," was reported by the House Judiciary Committee June 23.

FDA expansion—H. R. 7287, providing $1,096,800 to carry out the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Food and Drug Administration, was introduced July 12 and referred to the House Appropriations Committee (see story, page 257).

Trip-leasing—S. 898, to prohibit ICC regulation of the duration of motor carrier leases, was approved by the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation July 14.

Renegotiation—H. R. 4904, providing a two-year extension of the Renegotiation Act of 1951, was passed by House April 28 and by Senate June 21, with amendments. Conferees agreed on July 13 on a conference report.

Small Business Act—S. 2127, providing a two-year extension of the Small Business Administration, and increasing the maximum permissible loan from $150,000 to $250,000, was passed by Senate June 6. House Banking Committee continued public hearings.

Philippine Trade Act—H. R. 6059, to authorize the President to enter into a revised trade agreement with the Philippine Republic, was passed by House July 7 and was reported by Senate Finance Committee July 14.

Customs simplification—H. R. 6040 was passed by the House June 22 and was the subject of public hearings by the Senate Finance Committee July 6-8.

Hells Canyon Dam—S. 1333, to authorize construction, maintenance and operation of Hells Canyon Dam, was approved by Senate Interior Subcommittee June 8. Full Committee resumed hearings July 11. Hearings on companion bills were resumed by a House Interior Subcommittee July 13.

Water pollution—S. 890, extending and amending the Water Pollution Control Act, was passed by Senate June 17.

Canned Foods for VA

The Veterans Administration has invited sealed bids to furnish the following:

PEACHES, complying with Federal Specification Z-P-191a and Amendment 2, Type I, Style 1, Choice (Grade B), f.o.b. origin or destination: 13,250 dozen No. 10 cans in heavy syrup and 18,000 dozen No. 303 cans in water; or equivalents in other size cans. Bids due under S-6 by Aug. 10.

Intentions to Purchase for School Lunch Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announces that it contemplates purchasing canned peas, canned concentrated orange juice, canned grapefruit sections, and canned sour cherries for the National School Lunch Program.

PEAS

The canned peas must be of the 1955 pack, preferably in No. 10 cans, grading Extra Standard (Grade B) or better, and are for delivery during the period August 15 through September 19.

CITRUS

The orange juice must be of the 1954-55 crop and the grapefruit sections packed not earlier than January 1, 1955. The orange juice is for delivery during the period August 15 through September 17, and the grapefruit sections from August 15 through September 10.

SOUR CHERRIES

The sour cherries must be of the 1955 pack and are for delivery during the period August 15 through September 17.

Quantities to be purchased will depend upon the quantities and prices offered. Details and specifications of the purchases have been mailed to canners of these commodities.

Offers should be submitted to the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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